

## REPLACEMENT CLAIMS

1. (amended) A method for alleviating a disease state resulting from a microbial infection affecting sub-dermal soft tissue in a predetermined area of the body, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a treatment composition comprising, in combination:

- a1
- (i) a selected macrolide antibiotic; and
  - (ii) a selected mobilizing agent in an amount sufficient to enable said antimicrobial compound to penetrate into said sub-dermal soft tissue; and

applying said treatment composition to said predetermined area of the body so that said antimicrobial compound penetrates said sub-dermal soft tissue so as to reach said microbial infection therein.

5. (amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of providing said treatment composition comprises:

a2

selecting said antimicrobial compound from the group consisting of azithromycin, erythromycin and roxithromycin.

10. (amended) A treatment composition for alleviating a disease state resulting from a microbial infection affecting sub-dermal soft tissue in a predetermined area of the body, said treatment composition comprising:

- a3
- (i) a selected macrolide antibiotic; and
  - (ii) a selected mobilizing agent in an amount sufficient to enable said antimicrobial compound to penetrate into said sub-dermal soft tissue so as to reach said microbial infection therein when said composition is applied to said predetermined area of the body.

a4

12. (amended) The treatment composition of claim 10, wherein said macrolide antibiotic composition is selected from the group consisting of azithromycin, erythromycin and roxithromycin